

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-14 and 16 are present in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1-3, 6, 7, 9-14 and 16 have been amended, and claims 4, 5 and 8 have been canceled..

Reconsideration in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Entry of this Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 since the Amendment: (a) places the application in condition for allowance (for the reasons discussed herein); (b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration (since the amendments amplify issues previously discussed throughout prosecution and raised by the Examiner in the previous Office Action); (c) satisfies a requirement of form asserted in the Office Action; (d) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally-rejected claims; and (e) places the application in better form for appeal, should an appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the Final Rejection. Entry of the Amendment is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action contends that it is unclear whether the invention is directed to a final product having a mandrel and sleeve or a system having an mandrel and a plurality of sleeves. As described in the specification, however, Applicant respectfully submits that it would be apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art that the invention relates to a “universal” mandrel including a plurality of adapter sleeves that are selectable to accommodate varying size part diameters. It is this feature of the invention that provides the mandrel its ability to be “universal.” Notwithstanding, the claims have been amended according to the Examiner’s suggestion to define a universal mandrel system.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-14 and 16 were further rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. The Office Action contends that the claims fail to set forth the subject matter which Applicant regards as its invention. With reference to the comments above, and without conceding this rejection, the claims have been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion to define a universal mandrel system. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 1-3, 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,558,610 to Byung-Gie et al. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

This rejection was maintained from the previous Office Action. The remarks in the response filed August 8, 2006 are herein incorporated by reference. In response to those remarks, in paragraphs 10-13 of the Office Action, the Examiner appears to acknowledge that the Byung-Gie patent in fact lacks those features of the invention discussed in the prior response. The Office Action contends, however, that the claims did not recite such structure. Without conceding this contention, claim 1 has been amended to recite that only one of the adapter sleeves engages the core mandrel at a time, where the one adapter sleeve is selected to accommodate varying size part diameters.

In view of the amendments herein and with reference to the remarks in the August 8 response, Applicant thus respectfully submits that the rejection of claim 1 is misplaced.

With regard to dependent claims 2, 3, 6 and 7, Applicant respectfully submits that these claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are requested.

Claim 9 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Byung-Gie. Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the Byung-Gie patent lacks any suggestion to modify its structure to

correct those deficiencies noted above with regard to claim 1. As such, Applicant respectfully submits that this claim is allowable at least by virtue of its dependency on an allowable independent claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.

Claims 10-12 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Byung-Gie. Claim 10 has been amended similar to claim 1, and Applicant submits that claim 10 is allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above with regard to claim 1. Applicant further submits that dependent claims 11, 12 and 16 are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is thus respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 8, 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Byung-Gie in view of U.S. Patent No. 2,005,885 to Brindley. Claims 4, 5 and 8 have been canceled. With regard to dependent claims 13 and 14, Applicant submits that neither Byung-Gie nor Brindley provides any suggestion to modify the Byung-Gie structure to correct those deficiencies noted above with regard to independent claim 10. As such, Applicant submits that these dependent claims are allowable at least by virtue of their dependency on an allowable independent claim. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are patentable over the art of record and that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is desirable in order to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Prompt passage to issuance is earnestly solicited.

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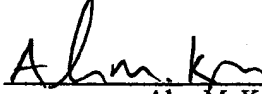
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Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



Alan M. Kagen
Reg. No. 36,178

AMK:jls

901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor

Arlington, VA 22203-1808

Telephone: (703) 816-4000

Facsimile: (703) 816-4100